63-390   Restaurant Meals Program (RMP)

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**63-390.1
Overview**

The State allows each county the option of implementing a Restaurant Meals Program (RMP). San Diego County fully implemented the RMP February 18, 2013.

The RMP offers options for individuals who may have difficulty preparing meals for themselves or do not have a place to store and/or cook food. The program allows RMP eligible recipients to use their Golden State Advantage (EBT) cards to purchase meals from participating restaurants with their CalFresh benefits.

Note: For all other CalFresh recipients, the federal rules preventing the purchase of prepared food still apply.

**63-390.2
RMP Eligible
Recipients**

RMP eligible recipients include individuals who receive CalFresh in San Diego County **and** are:

- Elderly or

- Disabled or

- Homeless.

For the purposes of determining eligibility to the RMP, the following definitions apply:

- Elderly is defined as:
  - Age 60 or over
- Disabled is defined as:
  - Receiving Social Security Disability Benefits, or
  - Receiving Railroad Retirement Benefits, or
  - Receiving Veteran's Administration (VA) benefits based on total disability or paid as total by the VA, or
  - Approved for and currently receiving Disability Determination Service Division (DDSD) Medi-Cal benefits.

RMP eligible recipients and their spouses may use their CalFresh benefits to purchase prepared meals from local approved restaurants and stores.

RMP recipients may continue to use their benefits at regular grocery stores, farmers' markets, and other locations where EBT for food purchases is accepted. Recipients may **only** buy prepared food from stores approved for the RMP.

NOTE: San Diego County RMP recipients may use their CalFresh benefits to purchase meals in other participating California RMP counties (Alameda, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Clara) or states (Arizona).

63-390.3 RMP Eligible Recipients Examples

In the following examples, all households must be receiving CalFresh benefits in San Diego County.

Example 1 – Intact family of 4, dad is receiving SSA disability and children are receiving SSA dependents benefits based on dad's disability.

RMP Eligible Recipients include dad (disabled) and mom (spouse) only.

Example 2 – Intact family of 4 living homeless in San Diego.

RMP Eligible Recipients include the entire household (homeless).

Example 3 – Unmarried parents and their 2 children. Mom is receiving SSA disability.

RMP Eligible Recipient is mom (disabled) only. Dad is not eligible because parents are not married.

Example 4 – Intact family of 3 living with the children's grandfather who is 62 years old. All purchase and prepare their food together and are active in one CalFresh household.

RMP Eligible Recipient is grandfather (elderly) only.

Example 5 – Married couple living alone, wife is 61 and receiving SSI, husband is 58 and unemployed.

There are no RMP Eligible Recipients as the wife is excluded from CalFresh and the husband is not a member of the RMP population. The elderly wife does not link the husband to the RMP as she is not receiving CalFresh.

63-390.4 County Responsibilities

General responsibilities for the County include:

- Approving restaurants which have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the County.

- Submitting completed RMP applications to the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) for review and approval.

- Issuing decals which participating restaurants are required to post, identifying them as a RMP restaurant.

- Identifying CalFresh recipients who are eligible for the RMP and activating their EBT cards for the program.

- Informing RMP eligible CalFresh recipients of the names and addresses of participating restaurants.

- Giving participating restaurants informational materials for distribution emphasizing the benefits of choosing healthier and more nutritious food.

Note: For a current listing of participating RMP restaurants visit www.SanDiegoRMP.org or call 2-1-1.

63-390.5

Restaurant shall:

RMP Restaurant
Responsibilities

- Sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the County.

- Be approved for the RMP by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS).

- Sign an agreement with Xerox, the State's EBT vendor, to accept CalFresh benefits.

- Provide low cost meals to RMP participants. Low cost meals are defined as:

  o Meals that cost less than what would be charged to customers not paying with CalFresh benefits; or

  o Discounted meals already offered to certain customers; or

  o Advertised special (i.e.: breakfast, lunch, and/or dinner combination meals) or sale priced meals, offered to all customers.

- Include healthy options in the low cost meals menu.

- Post RMP decals.

- Distribute informational materials supplied by the County that emphasizes the benefits of choosing healthier and more nutritious food.

Restaurant shall **NOT**:

- Charge a service gratuity or tip,

- Charge a sales or meals tax,

- Accept CalFresh benefits as payment for gift cards, or

- Accept CalFresh benefits as payment for alcoholic beverages.

Note: To apply to be an authorized RMP restaurant in San Diego County, visit www.SanDiegoRMP.org for required forms and instructions.

63-390.6   Intake/RRR worker will:

Worker Action at Intake/RRR	• Identify households that include RMP Eligible Recipients
	
	    o Elderly (age 60 or over) or
	
	    o Disabled (see 63-390.2) or
	
	    o Homeless
	
	*Note: Ensure that the homeless field on **Collect Individual Demographics Detail** window for the primary cardholder is correct ("Y" entered for homeless households and "N" entered for households with an address).*
	
	• Ensure the **Referred for Restaurant Meals** field is correct for all active EBT cards ("Y" for those eligible for the RMP and "N" for those who are not eligible to the RMP).
	
	• Follow instructions in How To #329 – Add Restaurant Meals Program (RMP) on existing EBT Account, or
	
	• Follow instructions in How To #330 – Remove Restaurant Meals Program (RMP) on existing EBT Account, and
	
	• Issue RMP Client Correspondence as appropriate.

63-390.7
Worker Action
When a Change
is Reported
	Worker processing the change will:
	
	• Identify households that include RMP Eligible Recipients
	
	    o Elderly (age 60 or over) or
	
	    o Disabled (see 63-390.2) or
	
	    o Homeless
	
	*Note: Ensure that the homeless field on **Collect Individual Demographics Detail** window for the primary cardholder is correct ("Y" entered for homeless households and "N" entered for households with an address).*
	
	• Ensure the **Referred for Restaurant Meals** field is correct for all active EBT cards ("Y" for those eligible for the RMP and "N" for those who are not eligible to the RMP).
	
	• Follow instructions in How To #329 – Add Restaurant Meals Program (RMP) on existing EBT Account, or
	
	• Follow instructions in How To #330 – Remove Restaurant Meals Program (RMP) on existing EBT Account, and

- Issue RMP Client Correspondence as appropriate.

**63-390.8
RMP Client
Correspondence**

A ten day notice of action is **NOT** required for the RMP as the program is not an additional benefit and does not affect CalFresh eligibility.

Workers are required to manually generate in CalWIN and send or give the following information letters to the head of household as indicated below:

- When a RMP eligible recipient is identified:

  - 09-96 Restaurant Meal Program New Eligible Change or

  - 09-96 SP Restaurant Meal Program New Eligible Change

- When a recipient is no longer eligible to the RMP:

  - 09-97 Restaurant Meal Program No Longer Eligible Change

  - 09-97 SP Restaurant Meal Program No Longer Eligible Change.

**63-390.9
RMP Monthly
Reports**

FRC's will receive monthly RMP reports and will take the following actions to ensure only RMP Eligible Recipients have access to the RMP:

- Cases with RMP Eligible Recipients **not** coded for the RMP:

  - Staff will review these cases to ensure they contain at least one RMP Eligible Recipient, and

  - Activate EBT card(s) for the RMP (See How To #329 – Add Restaurant Meals Program (RMP) on existing EBT Account).

- Cases **without** RMP Eligible Recipients coded for the RMP:

  - Staff will review these cases to ensure there are no RMP Eligible Recipients, and

  - Deactivate EBT card(s) for the RMP (See How To #330 –

Remove Restaurant Meals Program (RMP) on existing EBT Account).